

**From:** [OMEALY Mikell](#)  
**To:** (b) (6) ; (b) (6) ; [pdxharborcag@onenw.org](mailto:pdxharborcag@onenw.org)  
**Cc:** [STONE Dave](#); [SALIS Karyl L](#)  
**Subject:** [pdxharborcag] Well water quality in Sauvie Island  
**Date:** 04/07/2006 02:43 PM

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Jim, Robin and CAG members,

At the last CAG meeting, Jim raised a concern about potential pollution in the well water of Sauvie Island residents, and asked whether the agencies had any data on this, or who was tracking it. Since then, I've talked with folks here at DEQ and at the Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS) Drinking Water Program to learn more. Below is a summary of information on Sauvie Island well water quality and the different roles our agencies play. If you have any questions or would like more information, please let me know or feel free to contact Karyl Salis at the DHS Drinking Water Program (her contact info follows).

The state is responsible for regulating public water systems in Oregon (those that serve 4 or more homes or 10 or more people), and the DHS Drinking Water Program regulates four public systems on Sauvie Island -- Alder Creek Lumber, Reeder Beach Resort, Sauvie Island Moorage, and Sauvie Island School. Dave Stone, a lead toxicologist with DHS, looked at the state's database for well water quality for these four systems, and let me know that the data looks good -- no contaminants have been found in exceedance of drinking water standards in recent years, and the data is typical of what you'd expect from ground water wells elsewhere. Karyl Salis, a regional engineer with the DHS Drinking Water Program, provides more information below on the drinking water database and how to access it if you'd like to know more. As you're probably aware, private well water is an unregulated entity in Oregon, so the state doesn't have a database on private wells on the Island.

DEQ only tracks groundwater or well water quality if we suspect that it could be affected by a hazardous substance release, or if we are conducting an area-wide groundwater/well water investigation in connection to a potential pollution source (this is not happening on Sauvie Island). The only hazardous substance release that DEQ is tracking on Sauvie Island right now relates to the ESCO facility on the southern tip of the Island. Under DEQ's oversight, ESCO recently sampled wells near its facility and found no exceedances of drinking water standards.

Jim -- In general, I think the idea behind your concern about well water quality on Sauvie Island was the potential for pollutants in Portland Harbor sediments or river water to be affecting wells on Sauvie Island. From the information provided by Dave and Karyl at DHS, this doesn't seem to be a problem. If you'd like to know more, however, please let me or Karyl know.

Thanks,  
Mikell

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[Mikell O'Mealy](#)  
[Portland Harbor Outreach Coordinator](#)  
[DEQ Northwest Region Office](#)  
[Phone: 503-229-6590](#)  
[Email: omealy.mikell@deq.state.or.us](mailto:omealy.mikell@deq.state.or.us)

-----Original Message-----

**From:** SALIS Karyl L  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 06, 2006 5:01 PM  
**To:** STONE Dave; Mikell Omealy  
**Subject:** RE: Well water quality in Sauvie Island?

Hello-

I am a regional engineer with the Drinking Water Program. As Dave mentioned, we only regulate public water systems, which means serving 4 or more homes or 10 or more people. From what I gather, we have 4 public water systems on Sauvie Island: Alder Creek Lumber, Reeder Beach Resort, Sauvie Island

Moorage, and S.I. School. There are also several floating home communities served by wells across the Multnomah Channel from Sauvie Island (Big Eddy Marina, Casselmans, Mayfair Moorage, Rocky Point marina), whose wells may or may not be in the same aquifer as those on the island.

You can check all of our water quality data on our website, <http://oregon.gov/DHS/ph/dwp>, "data on-line." You can go to the inventory of public water systems by county for the list, or type in each system name. We have a bunch of info on the site for each system. If you want to check nitrate history for each system, you can do that, or check "alerts" which is what we can detect of any microbial or organic substance, or over half the MCL of an inorganic substance. etc. In general, I am not aware of any major issues with any of the wells on the island. the only one I can think of is Mayfair Moorage, across the multnomah channel, has high arsenic, which is probably naturally occurring. The school also has several detects of things as I recall.

keep in mind of course, that just because the wells are in relatively close proximity does not mean they are drawing water from the same aquifer. we should have well logs on file for each well, but we do not currently have those available on line. anyone is welcome to use our files if a study of this issue is to be done. We also have a separate program to identify groundwater sources that are hydraulically connected or under the direct influence of nearby surface water, and I can look into that aspect for these wells if that is a concern of yours.

Please feel free to forward this email on to anyone I may not have included. If you need any help sifting through the data on our website, or would like to discuss this issue further, please feel free to contact me at 971-673-0423. I am not in the office on fridays, but otherwise am here 7:30 to 6.

Kari

Kari Salis, PE  
Regional Engineer  
DHS-Drinking Water Program  
ph (971) 673-0423  
fax (971) 673-0457